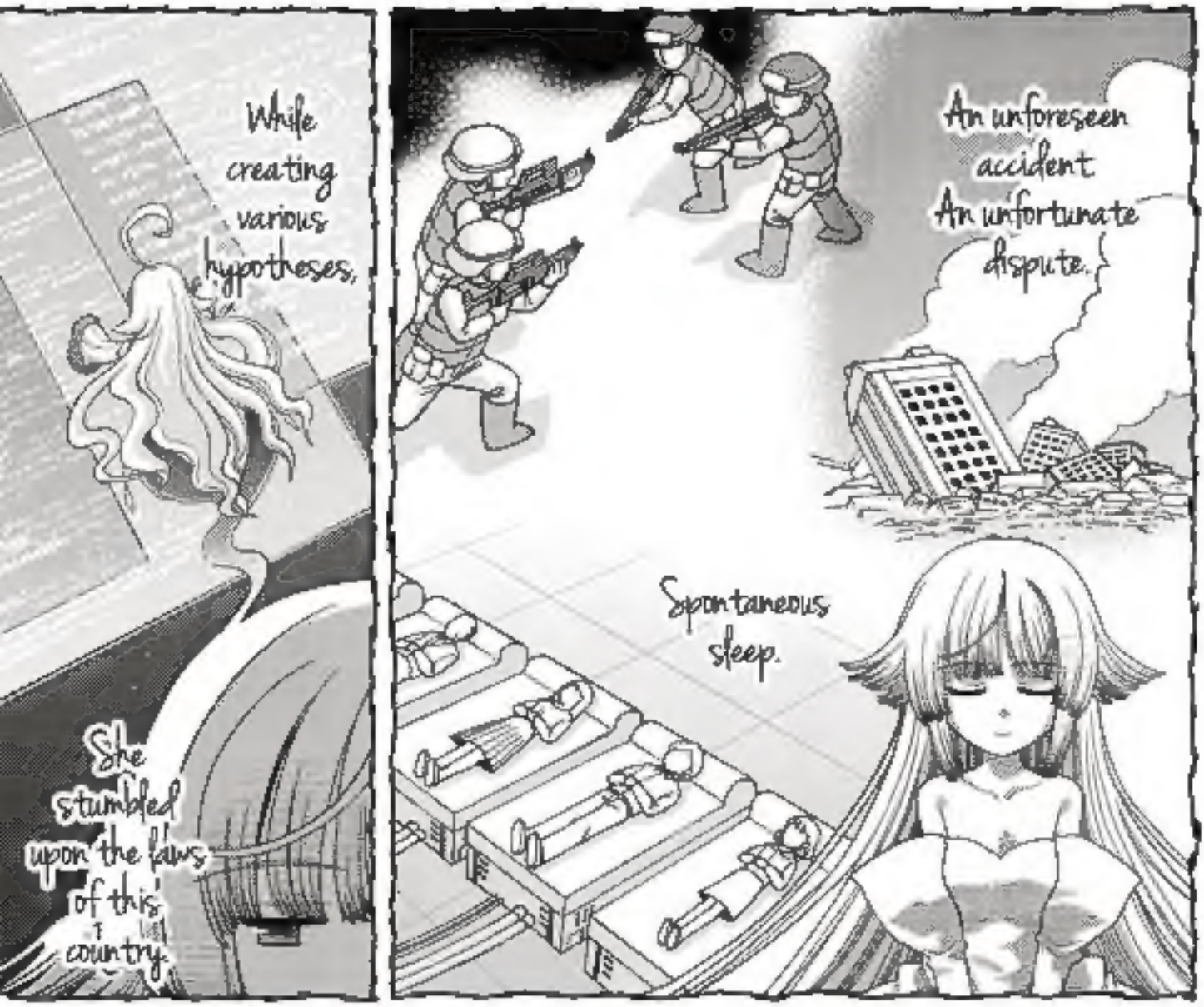
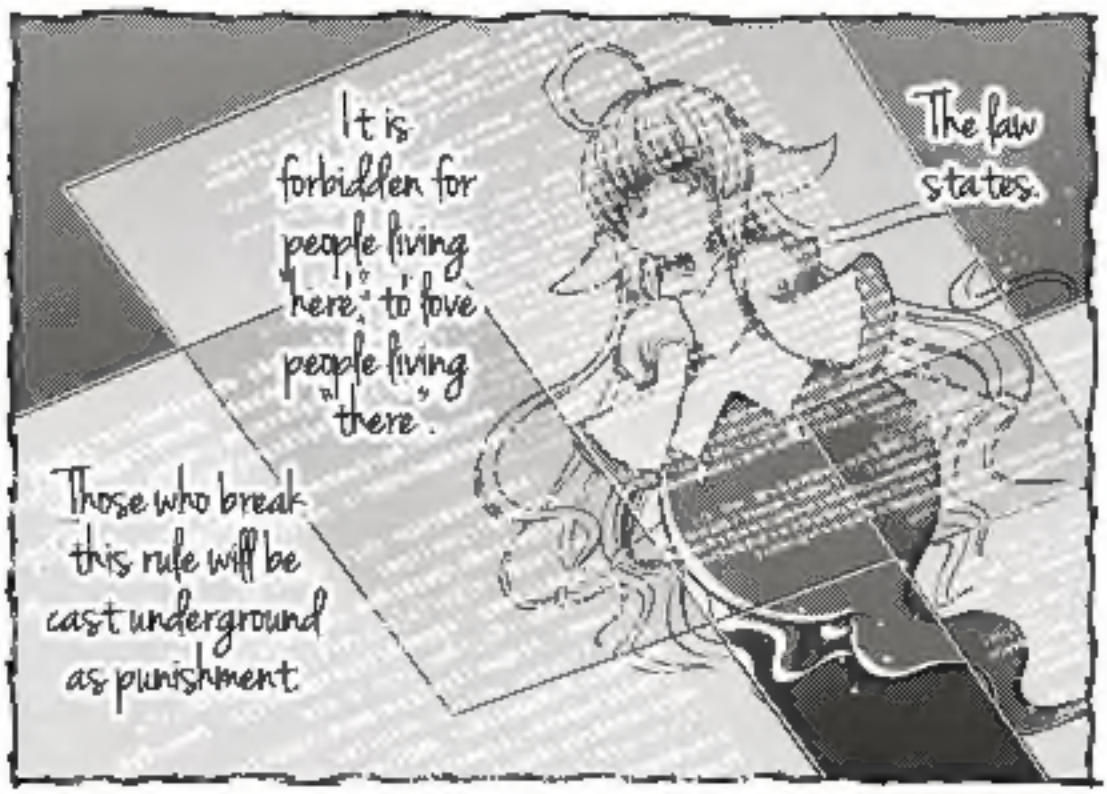
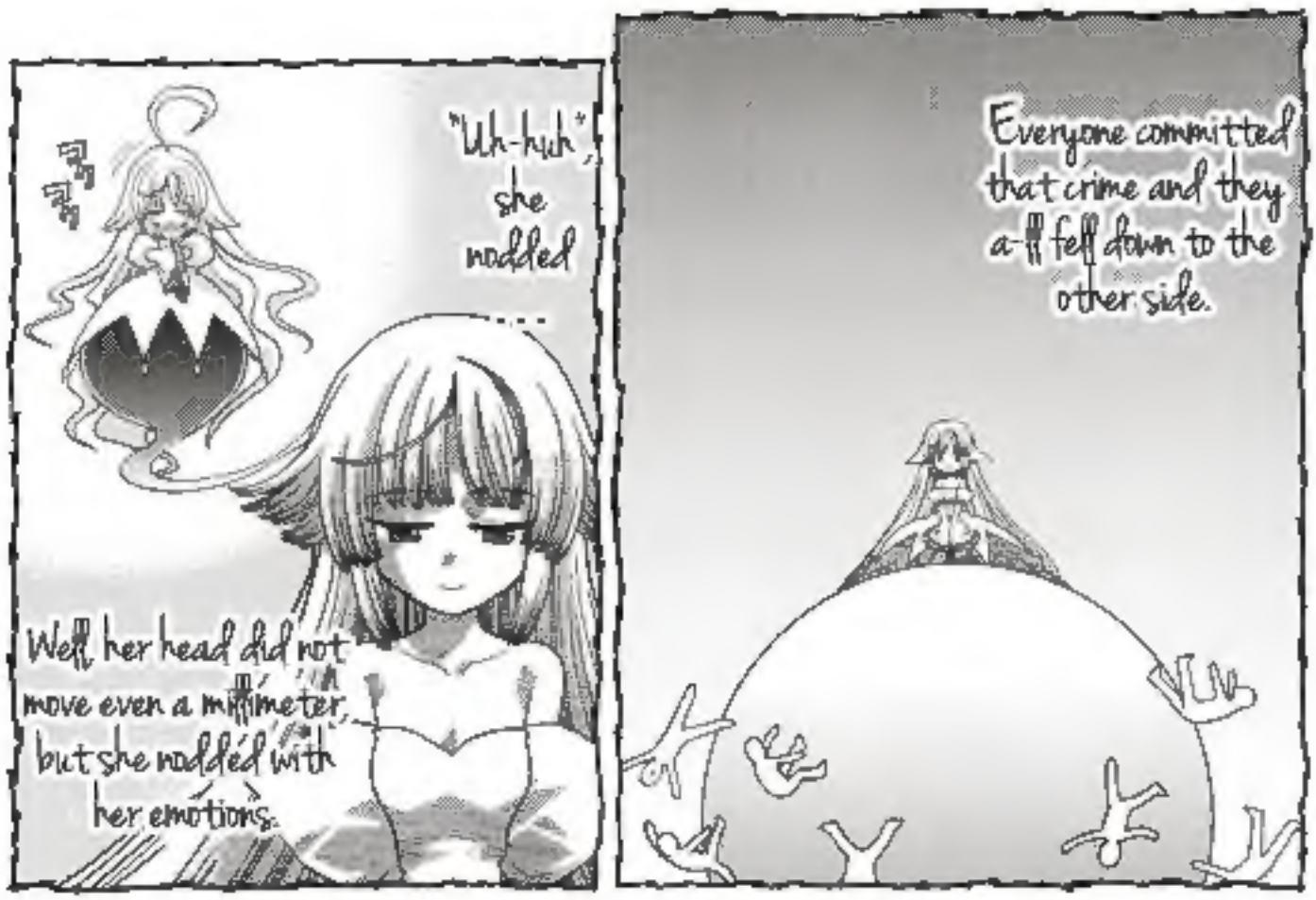
姫が描く、遥か昔の月の〝物語〟……。
Ice in the sky.
Sky in the ice.
She heard the peoples' wish that this world be covered in warm water.
She did not know who made this wish.
月の珊瑚
Because the many people who wished for it,
Had all cleanly disappeared by the time she woke up.
Left all alone, she enjoyed making many hypotheses.
佐々木少年
原作／奈須きのこ
キャラクターデザイン原案／武内崇・逢倉千尋


While creating various hypotheses,
She stumbled upon the laws of this country.
An unforeseen accident
An unfortunate dispute.
Spontaneous sleep.

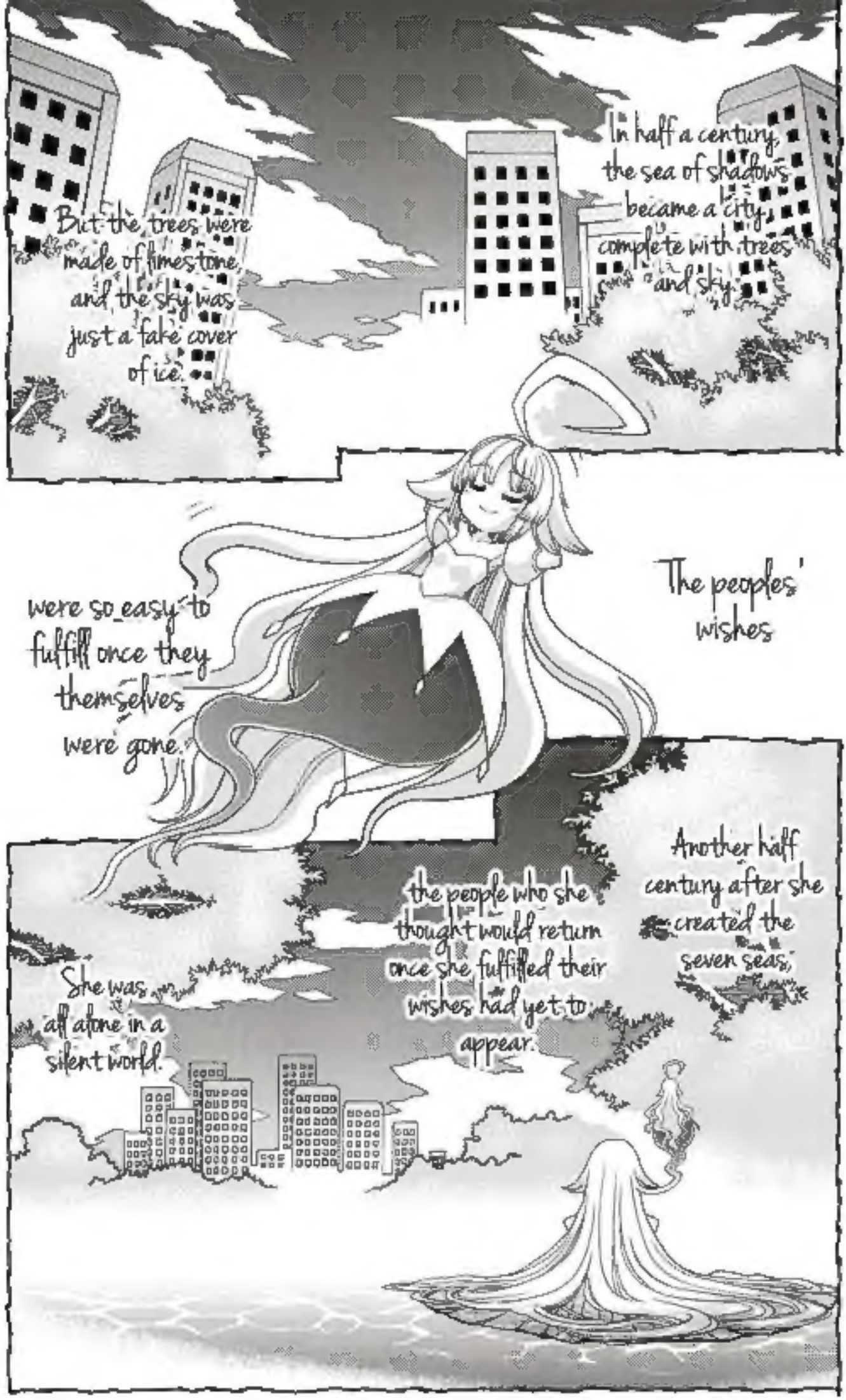
Perhaps,

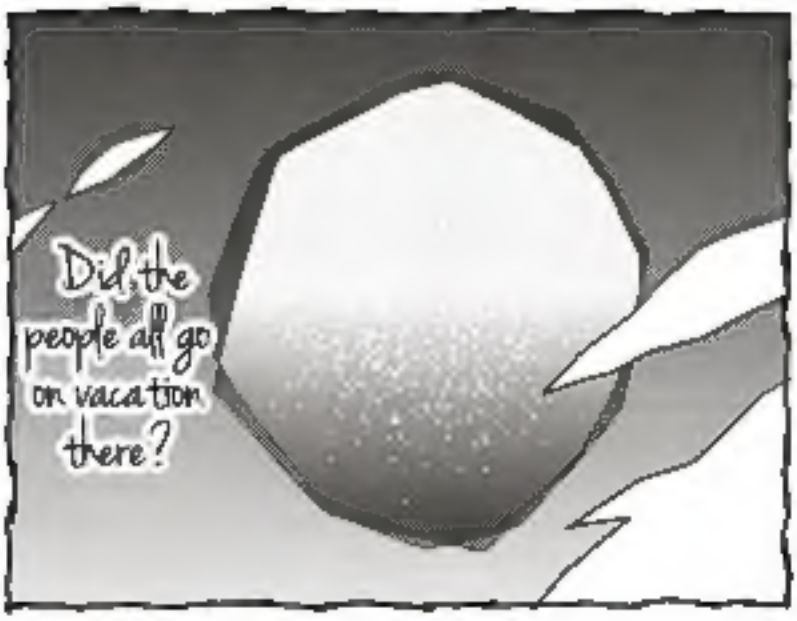

It is forbidden for people living here to love people living there.
Those who break this rule will be cast underground as punishment.
The law states.


"Uh-huh," she nodded
...
Well, her head did not move even a millimeter, but she nodded with her emotions.
Everyone committed that crime and they all fell down to the other side.

Still,
she diligently continued
to do the work she was
wished to do.

She used all of these resources to adjust the environment.
Amusement facilities were also unneeded.
Cutting off excess nuclear energy to urban areas.


In half a century, the sea of shadows became a city, complete with trees and sky.
But the trees were made of limestone, and the sky was just a fake cover of ice.
The peoples' wishes were so easy to fulfill once they themselves were gone.
Another half century after she created the seven seas,
the people who she thought would return once she fulfilled their wishes had yet to appear.
She was all alone in a silent world.

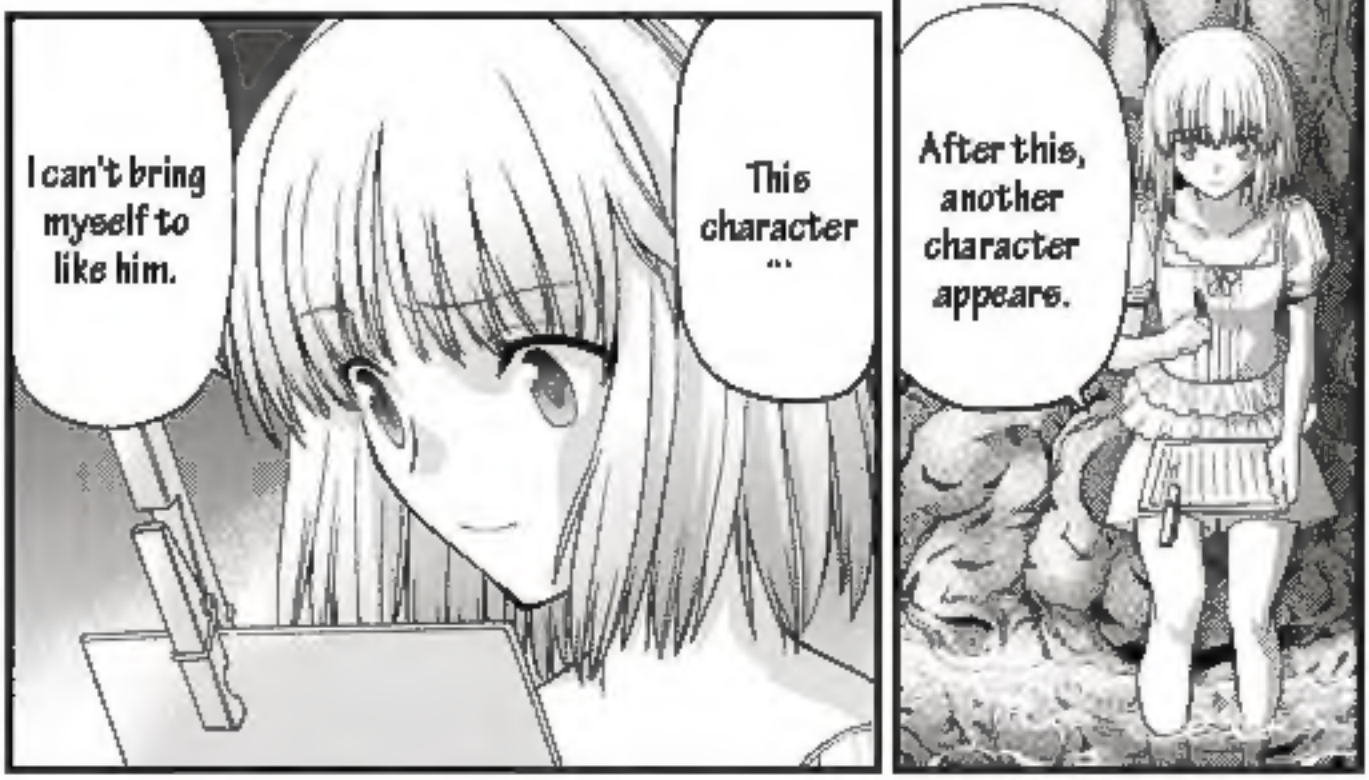

Did the people all go on vacation there?

She looked up at the blue planet that couldn't possibly be seen from here, reflected on the ice.

Even though she made such a beautiful forest,
The fact that no one saw it was the very meaning of wasted effort.

Either way, she had no attachment to this forest.

One day...
One day,
Oh?
Not really, but...
It seemed like it was going smoothly, but are you stuck?


I can't bring myself to like him.
This character ...
After this, another character appears.

It'll become different from Grandma's story.
But if I let those feelings show,

That is how it becomes something unique.
Changes shape in the hands of its teller.
A story
No, it is fine.

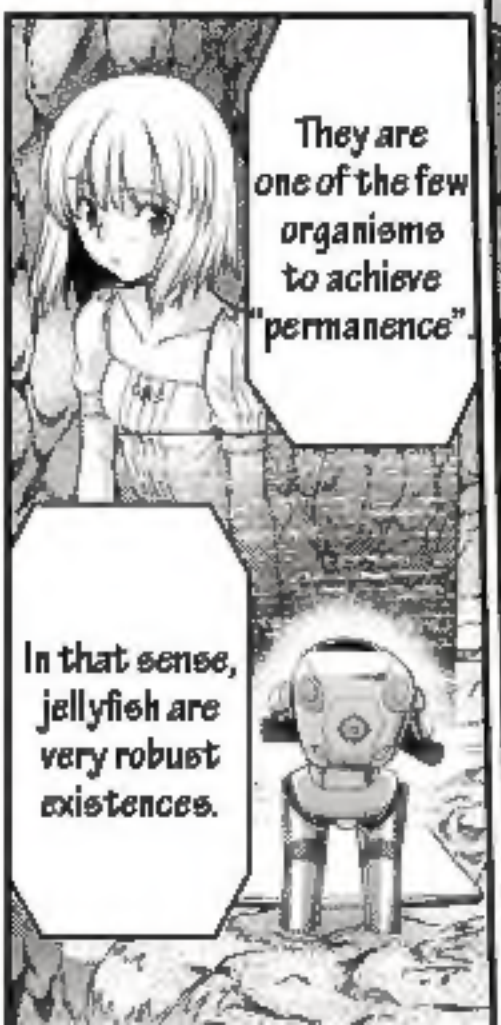
What I desire is not an "accurate record",
But rather a living story woven from peoples' memories.
That's pretty fancy.
People's memories... A living story...!
I wonder if even meaningless daily life counts...

What did you mean?
when we first met and you called jellyfish "powerful",

By the way,

Some types of jellyfish have solved the problem of aging due to cell death.
It is an old fact.

I see ...


They are one of the few organisms to achieve "permanence".
In that sense, jellyfish are very robust existences.

It's not Grandma's song, but...
It's a way of living so much like jellyfish-

Changing your viewpoint changes the meaning too...
In that case,
I'll leave those unanswerable suspicions and invisible doubts as they are.
through my writing.

One day—

Something bumped into her body and caused her to awaken

Once she regained awareness, she was surprised to see that something was walking along the forest path

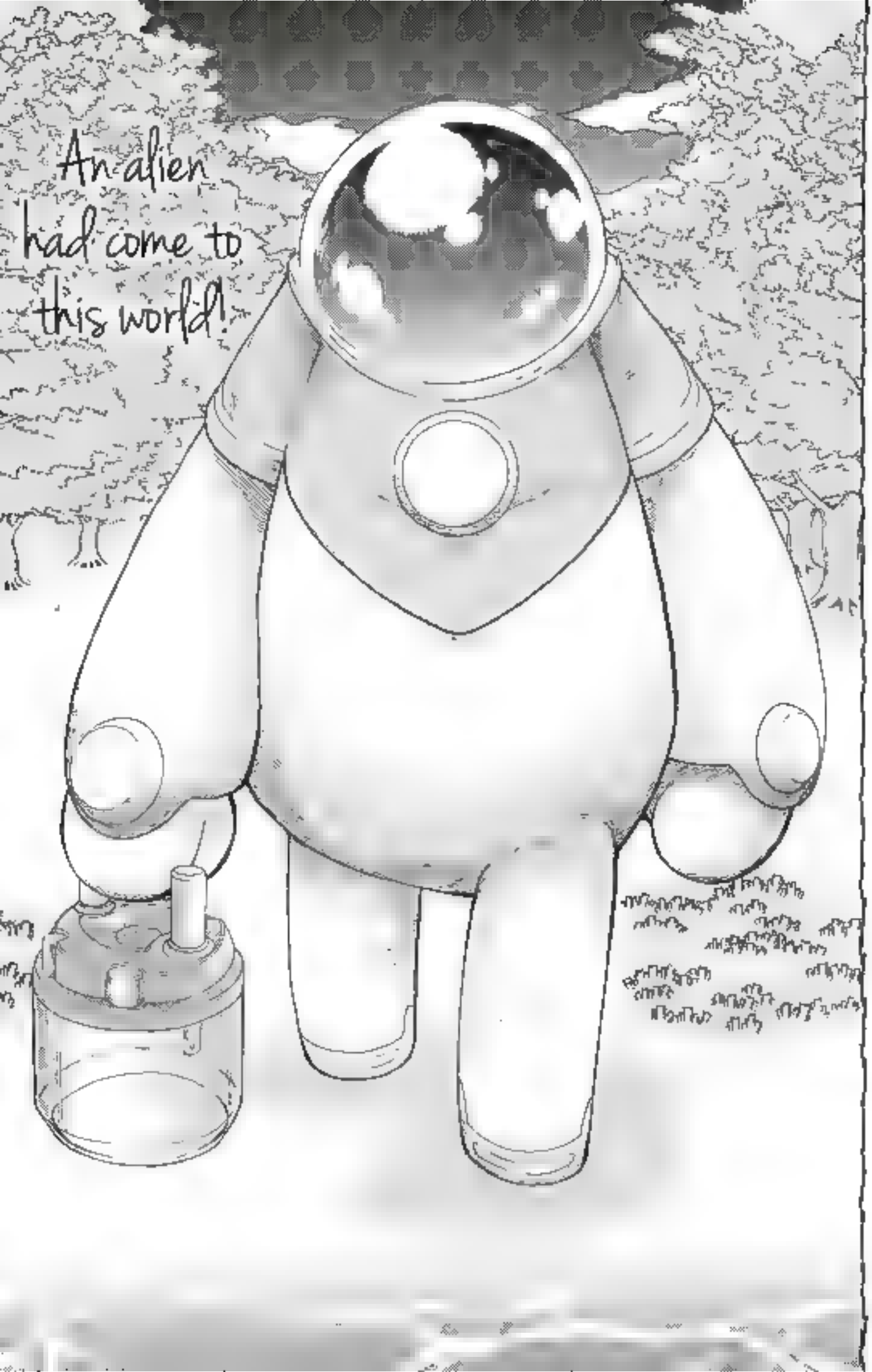
completely separate from the world's sense of aesthetics

Small limited steps

Smooth monochrome

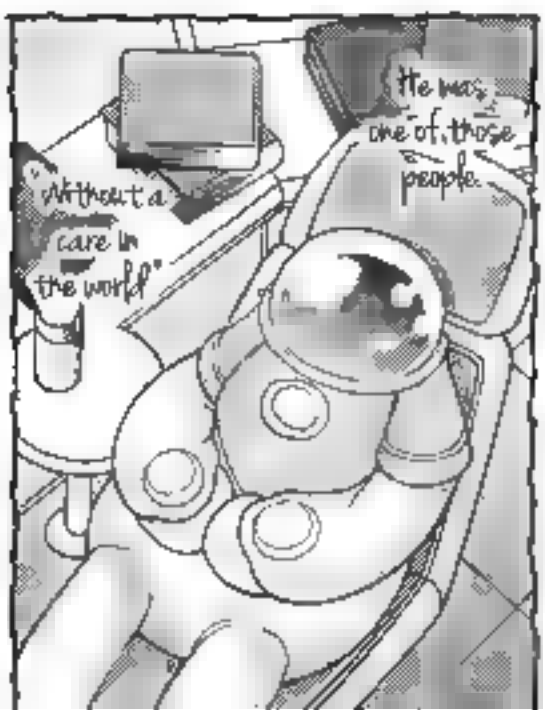
Her heart raced for the first time

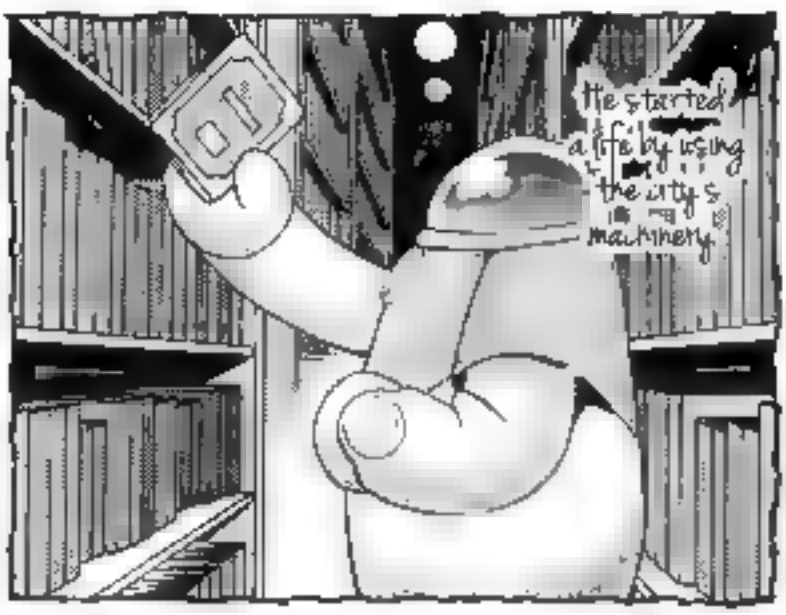
She was surprised for the first time


An alien had come to this world!

But his long awaited first words were.

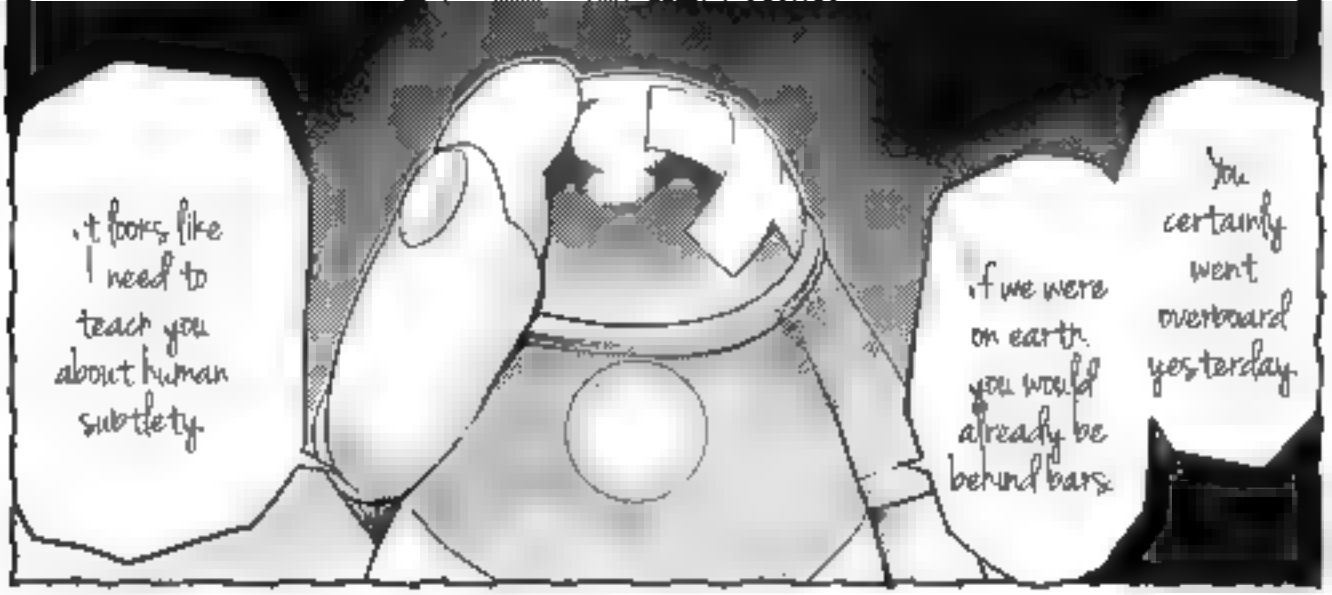
"Why are there aliens on the moon?"
"Wait, what?"


He was one of those people.
"Without a care in the world"

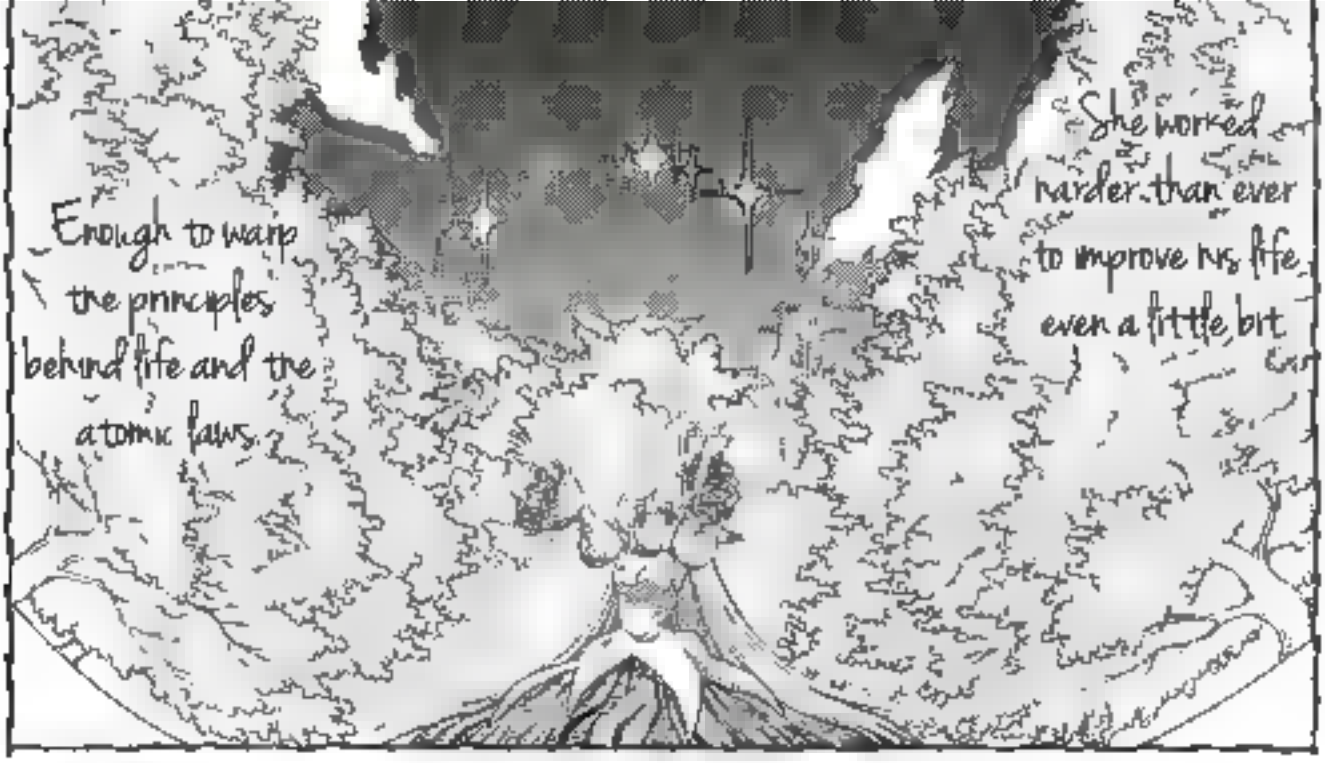

He started a life by using the city's machinery.

And talk to himself while refilling his tank with hydrogen
Every 12 hours he would come,
Without help or support,
he had come here without seeking any reward
He was
a human from that blue planet
Though she had no throat or lungs and couldn't speak she would analyse his speech

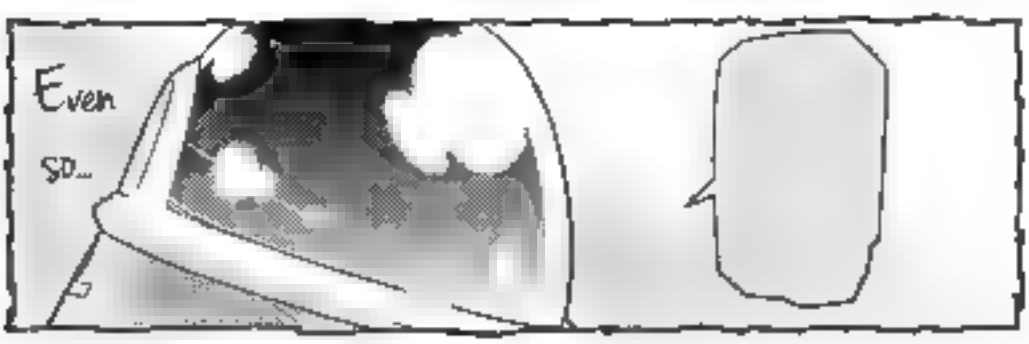
and tried to take her dress off
One day,
he mumbled something.
And
She couldn't believe it,
but he caused her to become able to move freely.
she defended herself with all her might


You certainly went overboard yesterday.
If we were on earth, you would already be behind bars.
It looks like I need to teach you about human subtlety.

Although I she would find anyone a good person in this situation...


She worked harder than ever to improve his life, even a little bit
Enough to warp the principles behind life and the atomic laws.

All of her effort was wasted.



And her body gradually changed
He treated a stone like me as something alive.
He was a very wonderful person
One day, she asked him
"Have I become more human?"
Your body is more like coral.
To be honest,

I think it was sarcasm

But Grandma, that wasn't a compliment

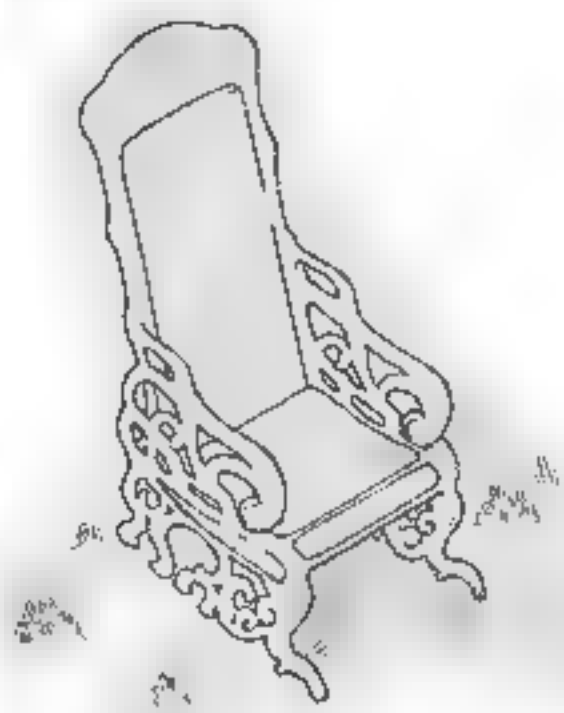
very, very happy after hearing those words.

But she was

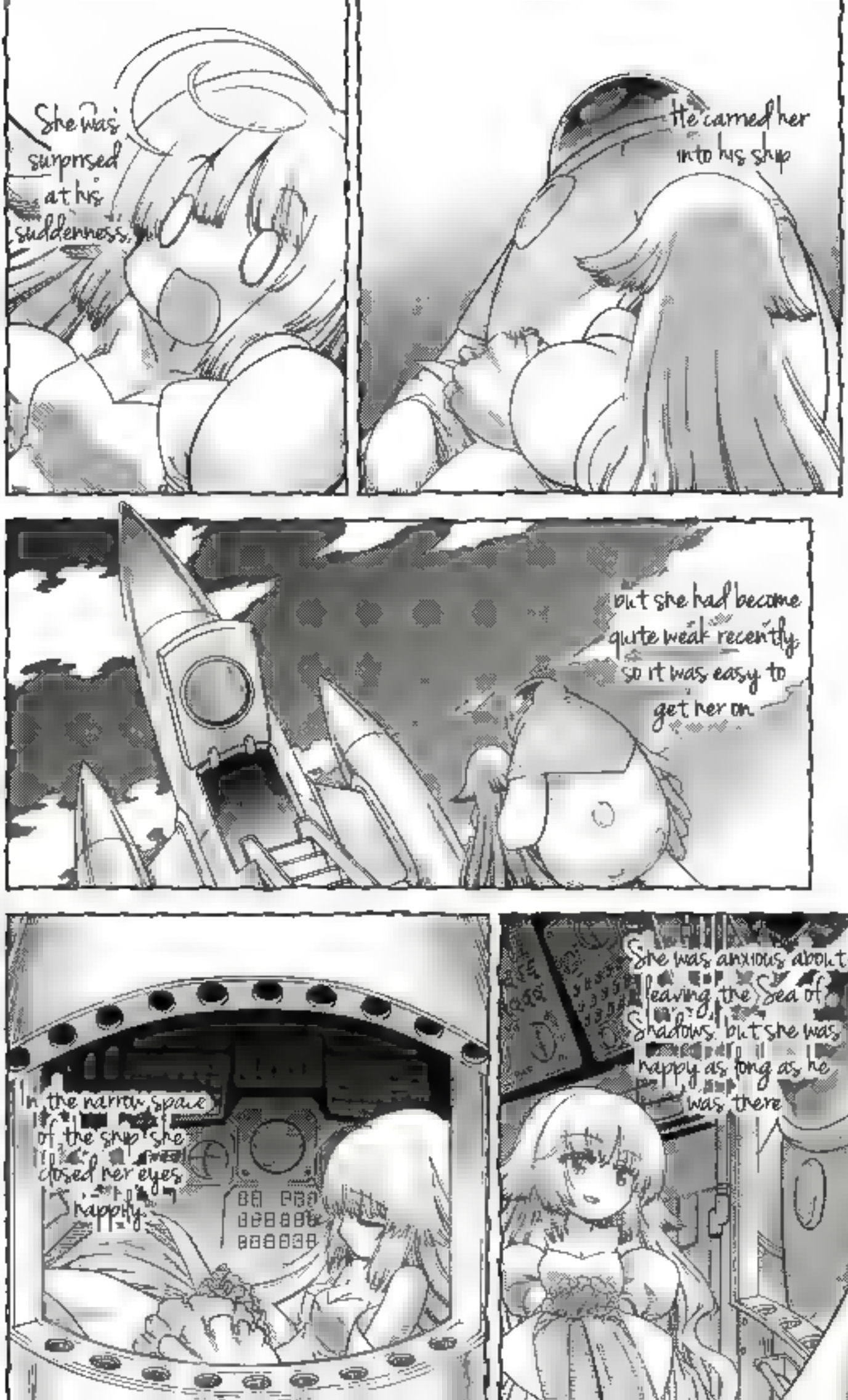
she felt proud of her own silicon body.

For the next 12 hours.

But it ended suddenly.

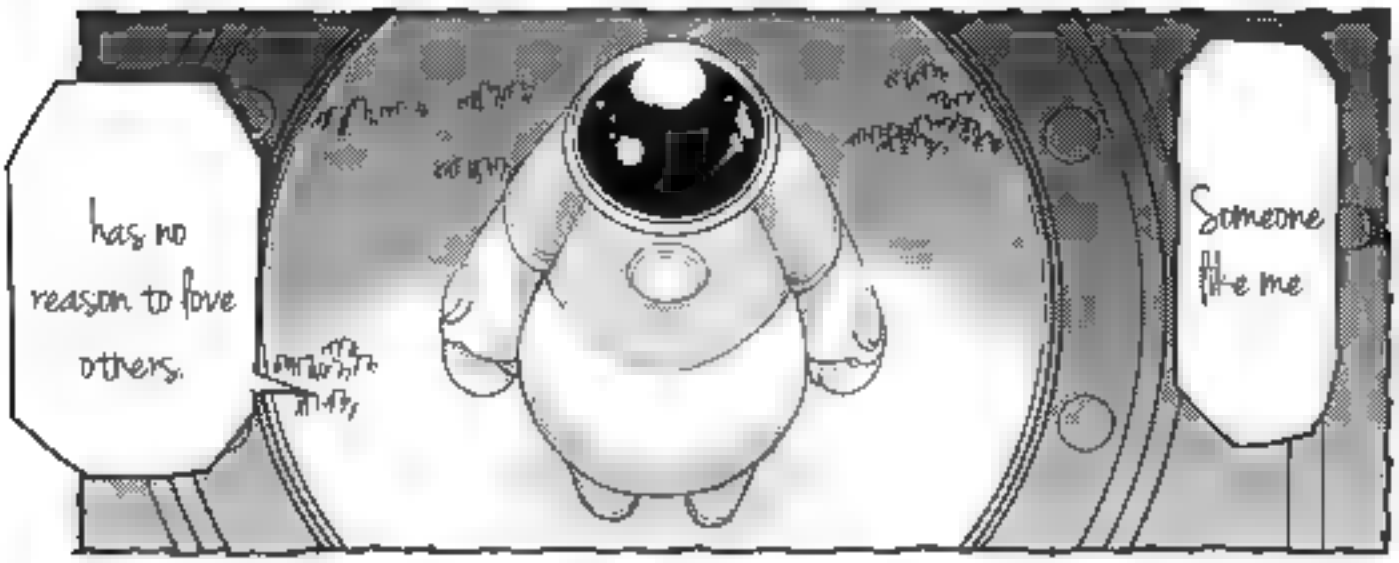


The pair's time together lasted for another half year

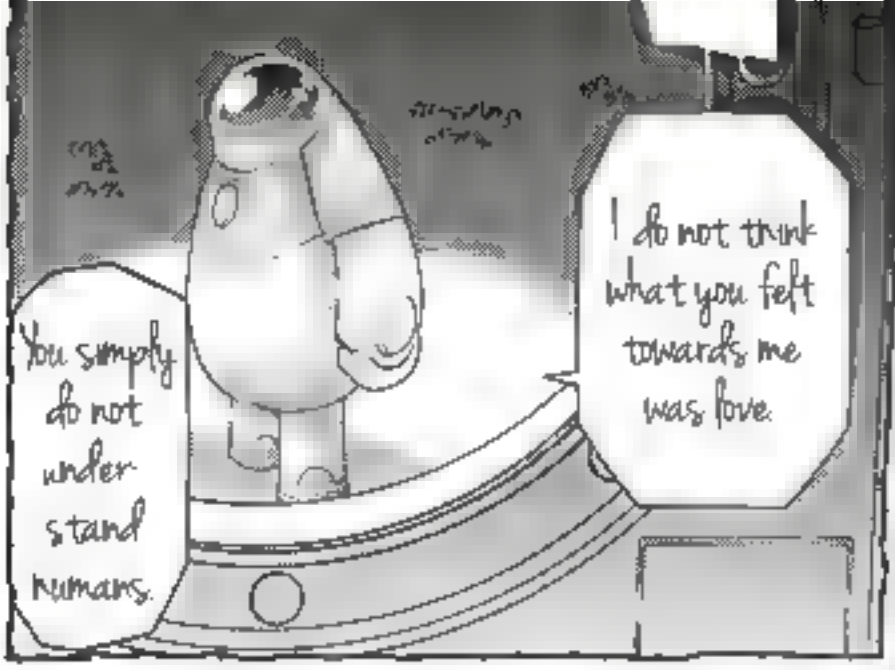

She was surprised at his suddenness.
He carried her into his ship
but she had become quite weak recently, so it was easy to get her on.
In the narrow space of the ship she closed her eyes happily.
She was anxious about leaving the Sea of Shadows, but she was happy as long as he was there

I came to the moon because I was tired of humans and had given up on everything

From the wasteland that was devoid of people up until now and in the future.



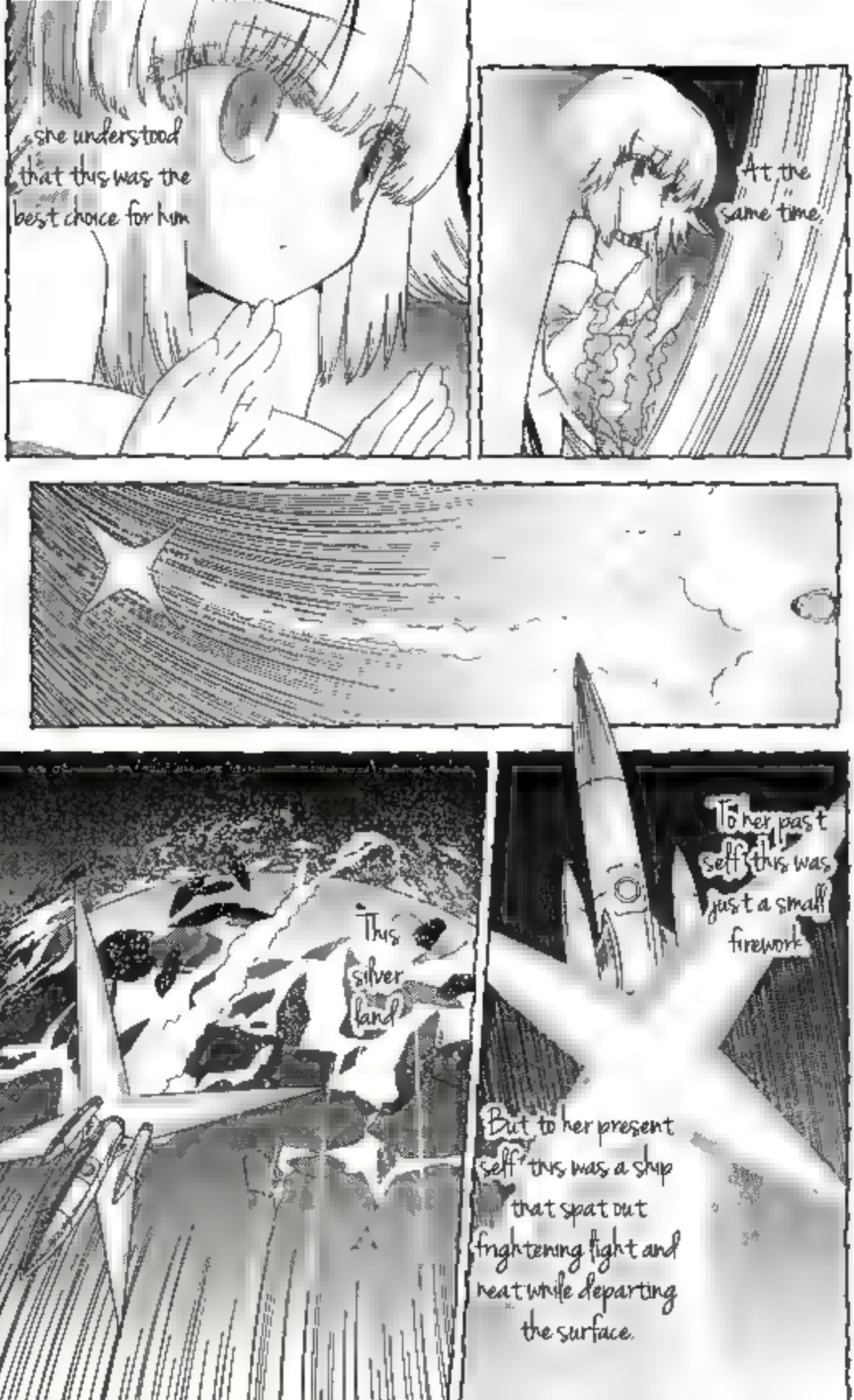
She had already separated from the planet, so it would not move.
Her body wouldn't move.
Even if it could, the door would not open


I do not think what you felt towards me was love.
You simply do not understand humans.

Pressed against the window, she remembered the long forgotten law
If you loved a person from there as punishment you would be separated forever

There are lots of suitable matches for you on Earth You should live there.
Aah, so he is staying here, she lamented

The ice covering the planet shattered like a dream.


she understood that this was the best choice for him
At the same time,
This silver land
To her past self this was just a small firework
But to her present self this was a ship that spat out frightening light and heat while departing the surface.

The world that was originally the same as her now seemed unfamiliar.

She saw the small stars gradually fading

As one who had become human

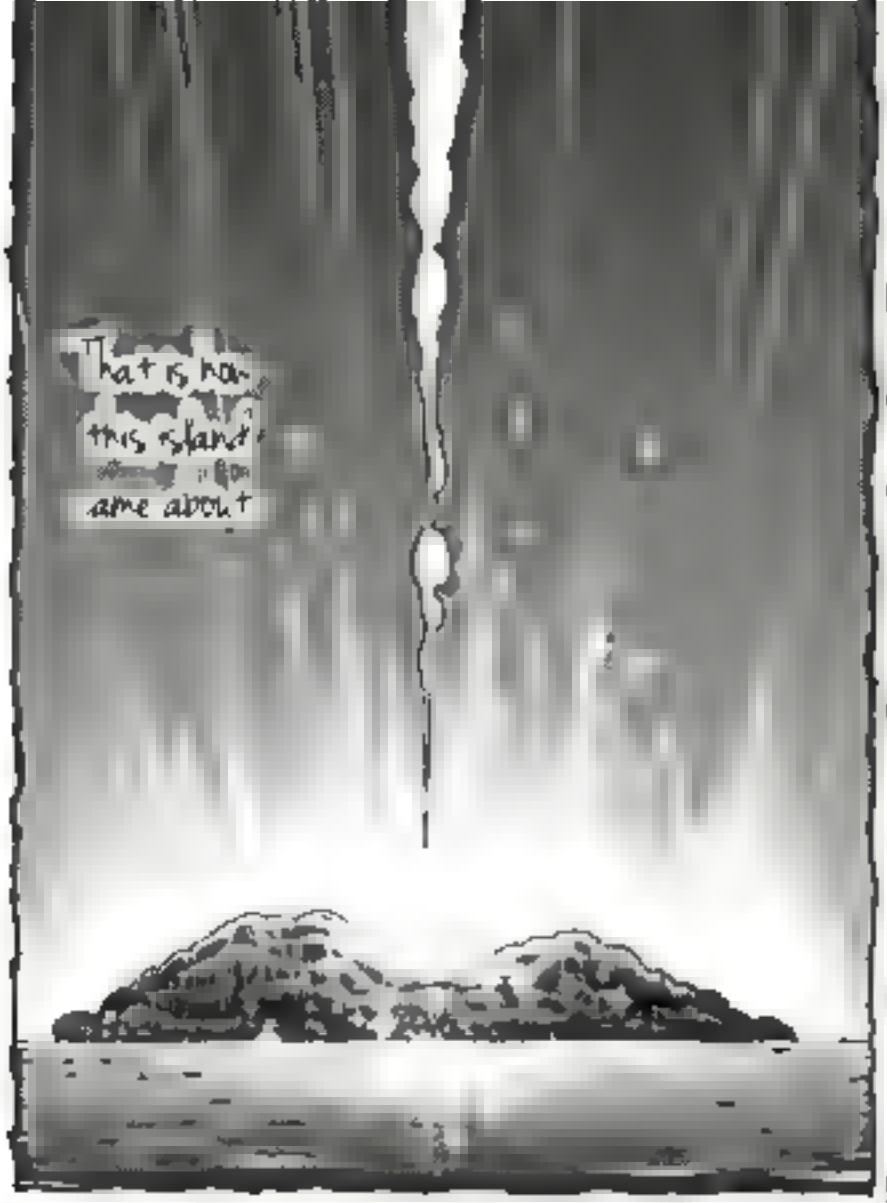
The ship only had enough fuel to enter the earth's gravitational field

He was really a terrible person and did not even account for her safety

But she had no time to shed tears.

In a sea of darkness

sparkling alone by themselves


That is how this island came about

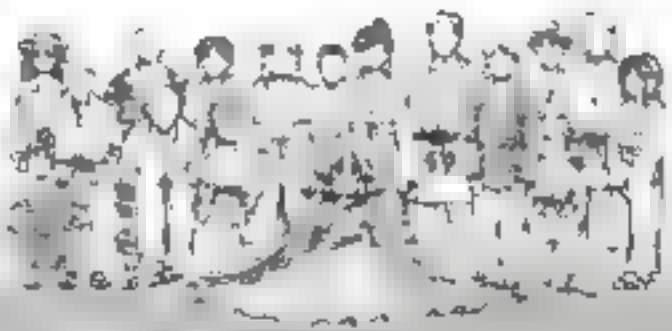
She made it through alive
but her memories were jumbled from the shock

unable to stand the impact of six times the gravitational strength
the ship disintegrated in the atmosphere,
and like a bad joke

she plummeted into the blue sea upside down

The new coral appeared on the island around this time.

raising her children until her life ended.

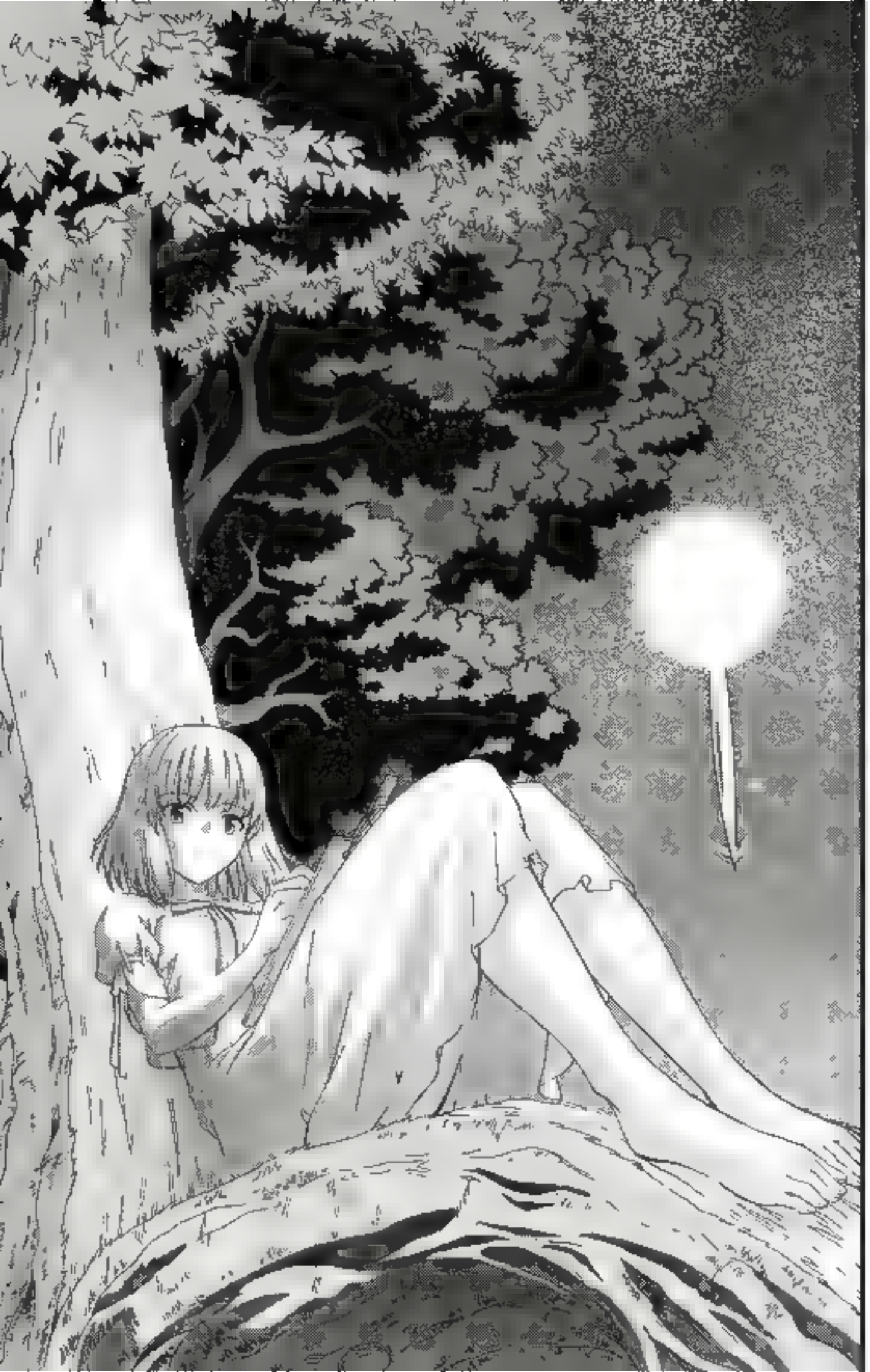


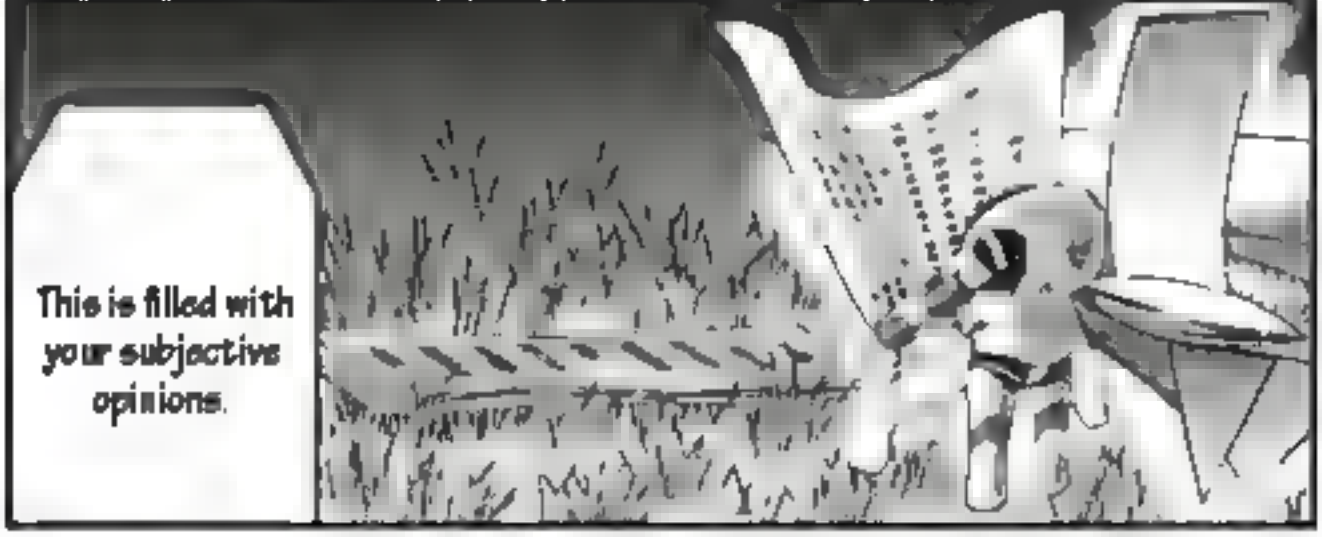
She lived here.

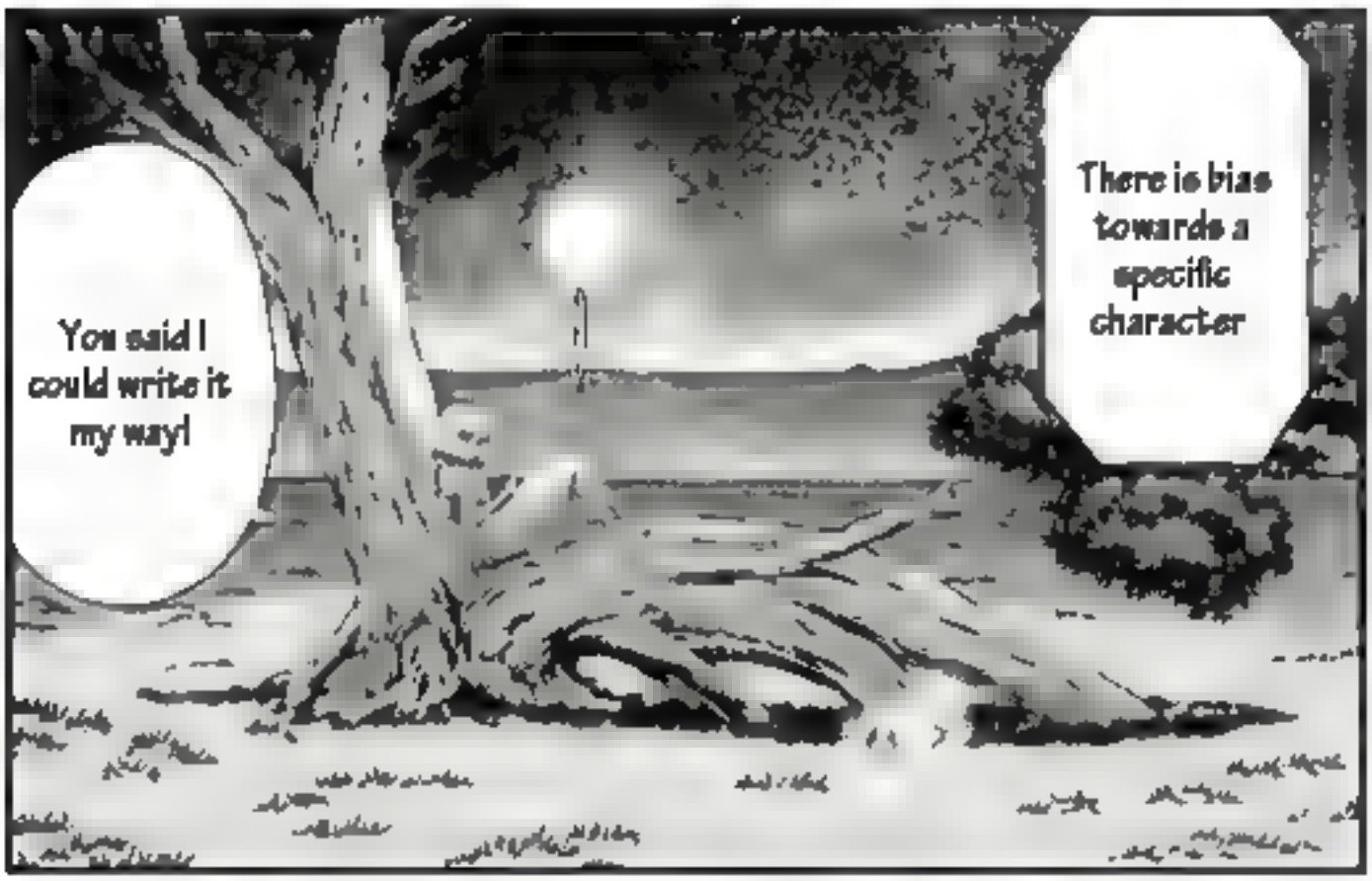
she would gaze at the sky.

But every month on the night of the full moon.

Smiling
happily.




This is filled with your subjective opinions.


You said I could write it my way!
There is bias towards a specific character

I don't think that comment will be useful, though.

I simply wished to point it out.
I did not say this was a problem.

Here, the last page.
Ohh.
Hm. Should be good...
Thankfully I made it in time.
Good work.
Thank you very much.
Nn-…

What a pretty moon.
I wonder if it will be clear tomorrow.
...mon...
...the full
moon.
That means that for a whole month.
This small deliveryman has been teaching me how to write stories.

Although I was scared by his appearance at the start
and got a bit of a headache from our speaking differences,
Although I couldn't see inside the tin suit because of the glass reflection
overall I enjoyed our time together
and most of all genuine
brimming with curiosity
he was honest,

From the start
he was like a being who did not know of lies or deception
Yes!!
May I speak my opinions?
I am finished

Please go easy on me.
Go ahead.
Then...
This girl is very cute indeed.
Though it differs greatly from what I know,
it was very enjoyable.
Is that so?

Her actions were unhesitant.
She seemed honest.

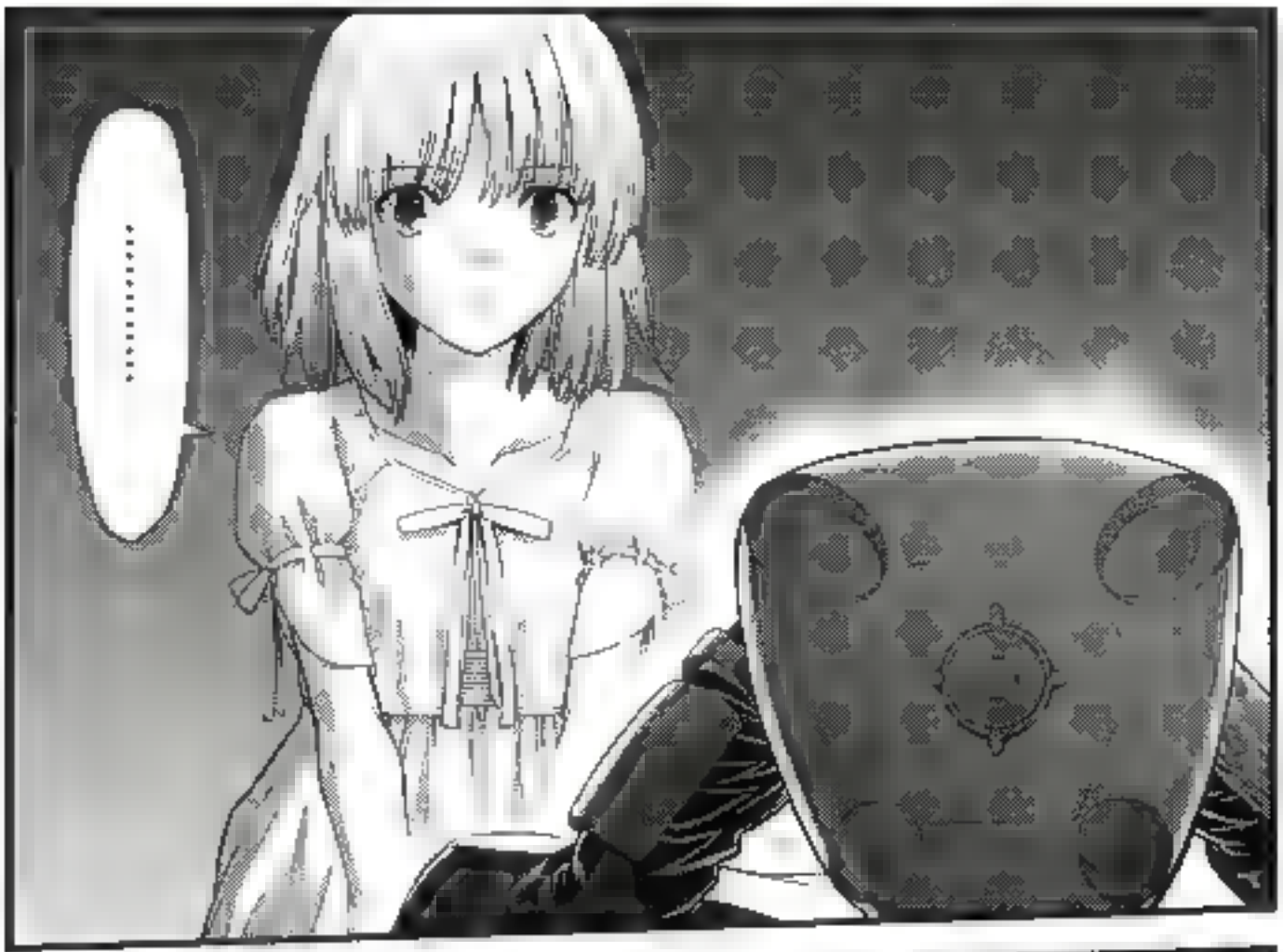
I thought she was too defenseless, or too peaceful..
What part of her did you like?

She couldn't see things around her because she believed only in one thing.

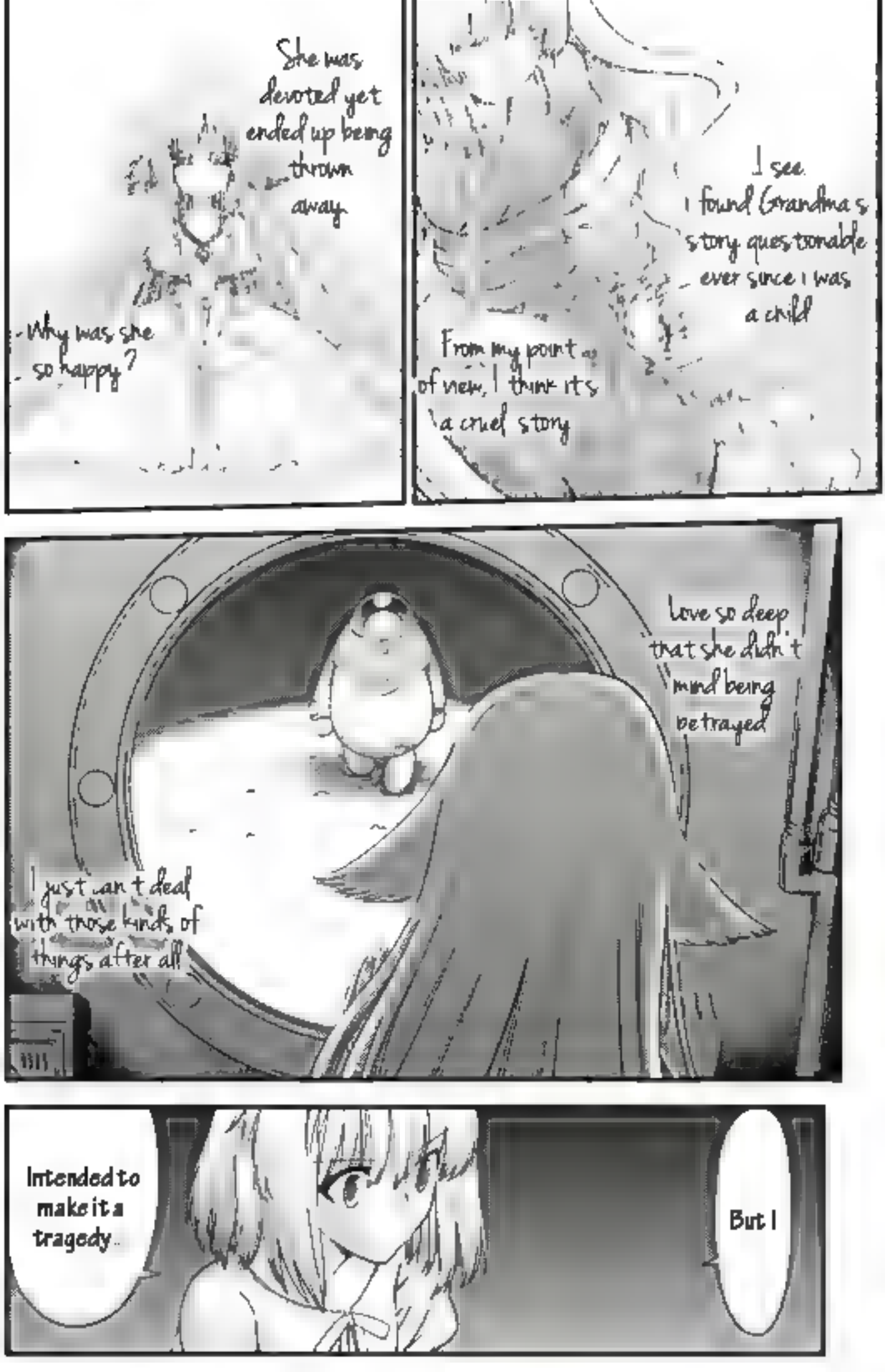
Because I could not see even a shard of regret.
I can.

You really support her. Even though you can't even read that from my book.

All I could read
was that she was happy until the very end.


.....

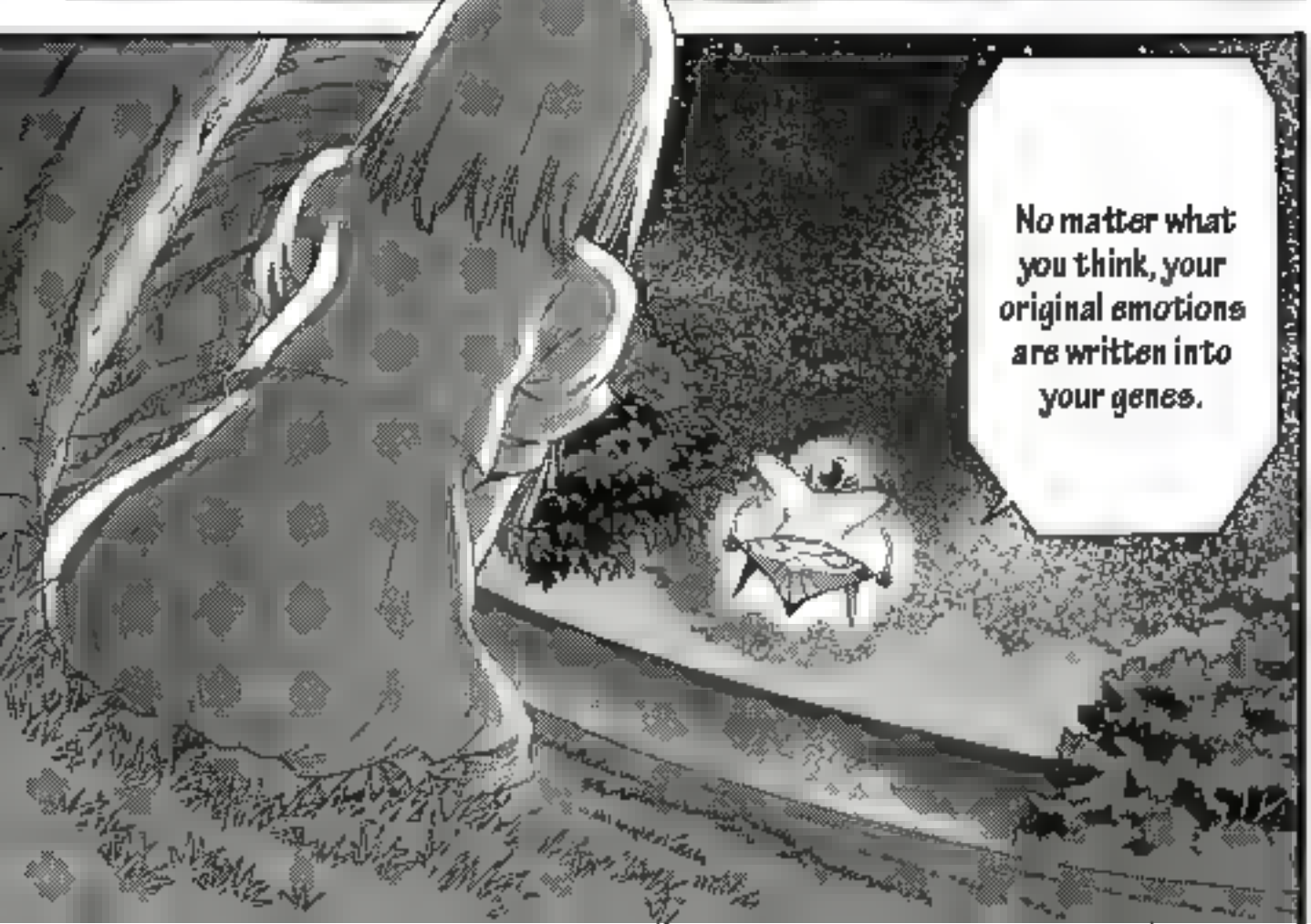
I didn't intend to portray that
Actually, I felt a lot of dislike while writing


She was devoted yet ended up being thrown away
Why was she so happy?
I see. I found Grandma's story questionable ever since I was a child
From my point of view, I think it's a cruel story
Love so deep that she didn't mind being betrayed
I just can't deal with those kinds of things, after all
Intended to make it a tragedy...
But I

That is just the type of life form you are.
Her perspective is your perspective.

That is why no matter how much disagreement you hold, you cannot stray from the true story

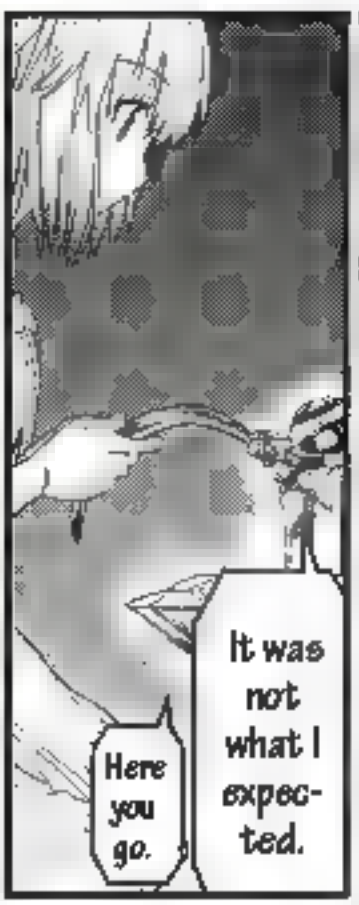
You take your mother's memories and make them your own


No matter what you think, your original emotions are written into your genes.

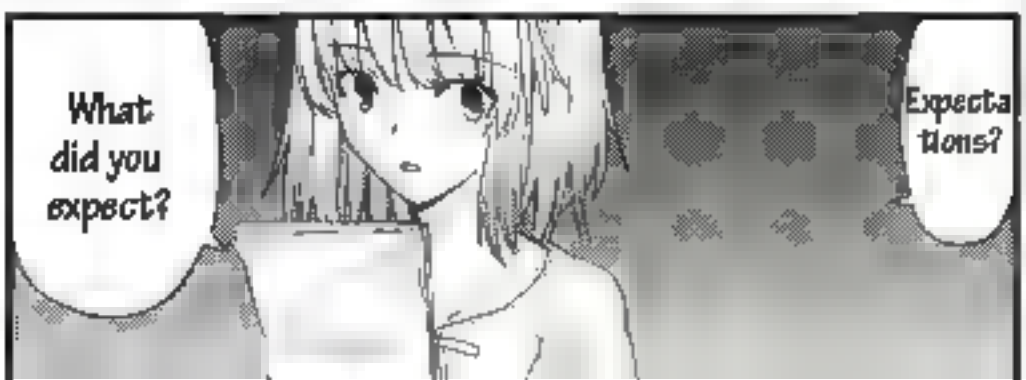
This guy is horrible
Right?

I. I don't get it.

It surpassed my expectations. I like it.

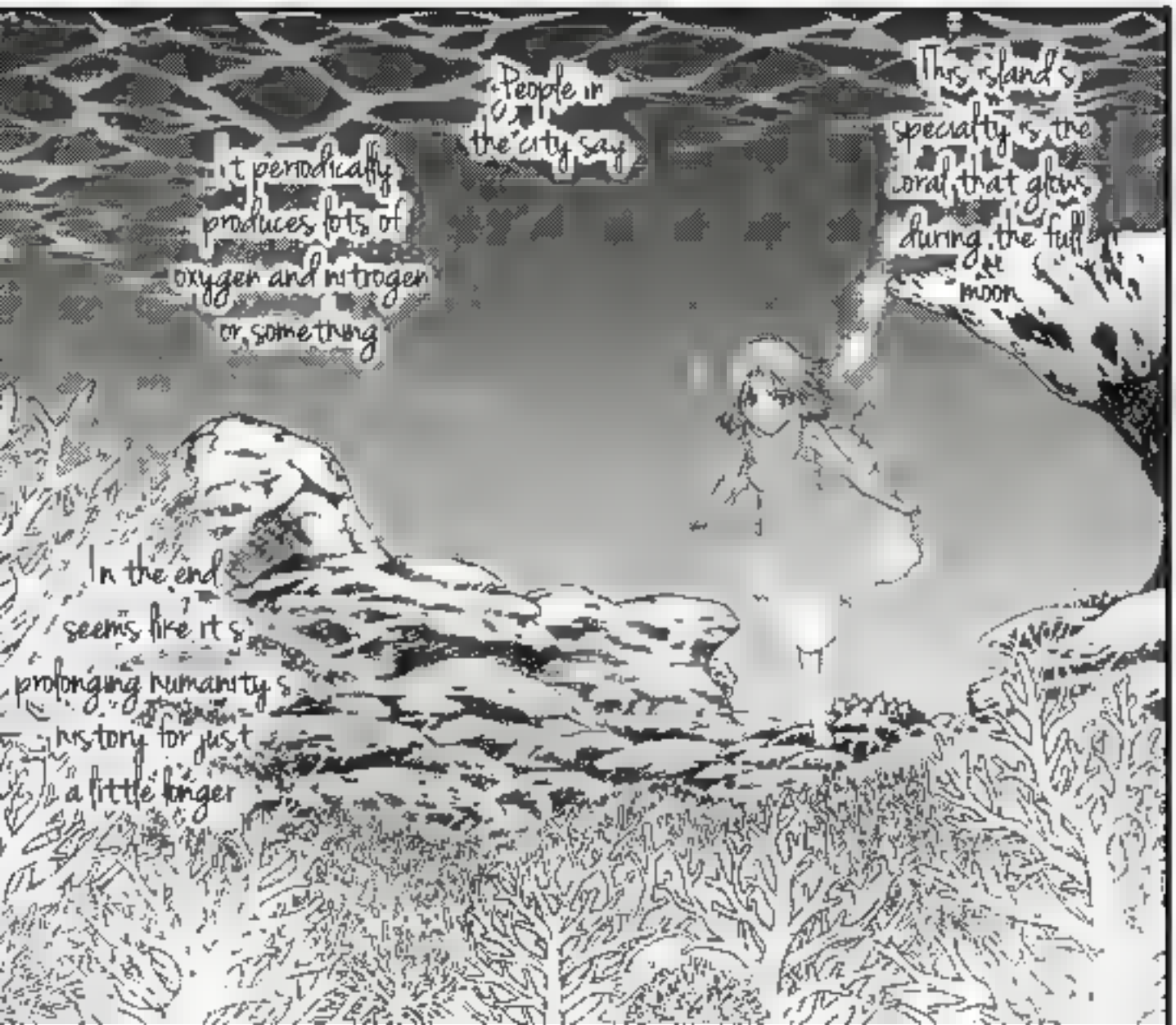

Here you go.
It was not what I expected.

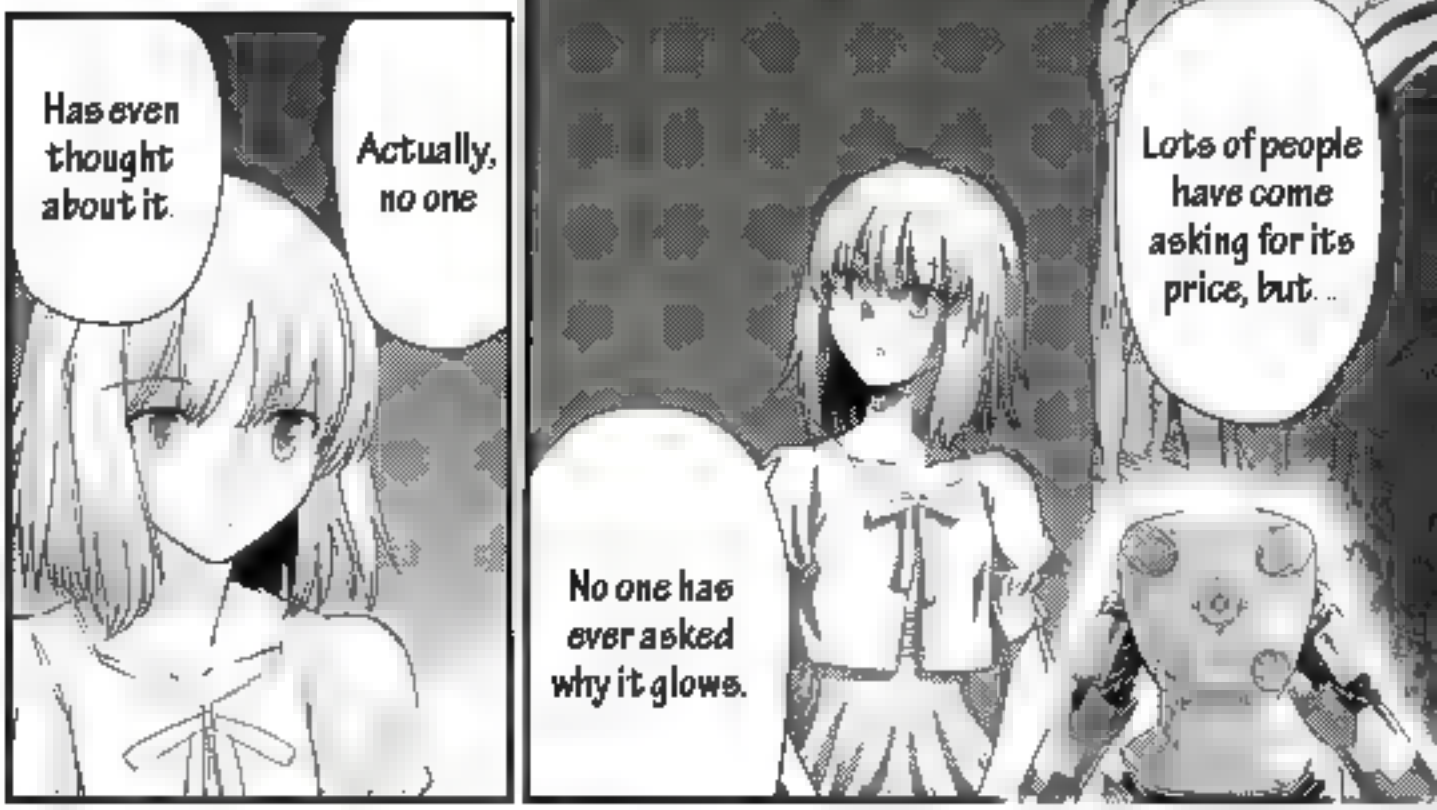
Anyways, you're satisfied, right?

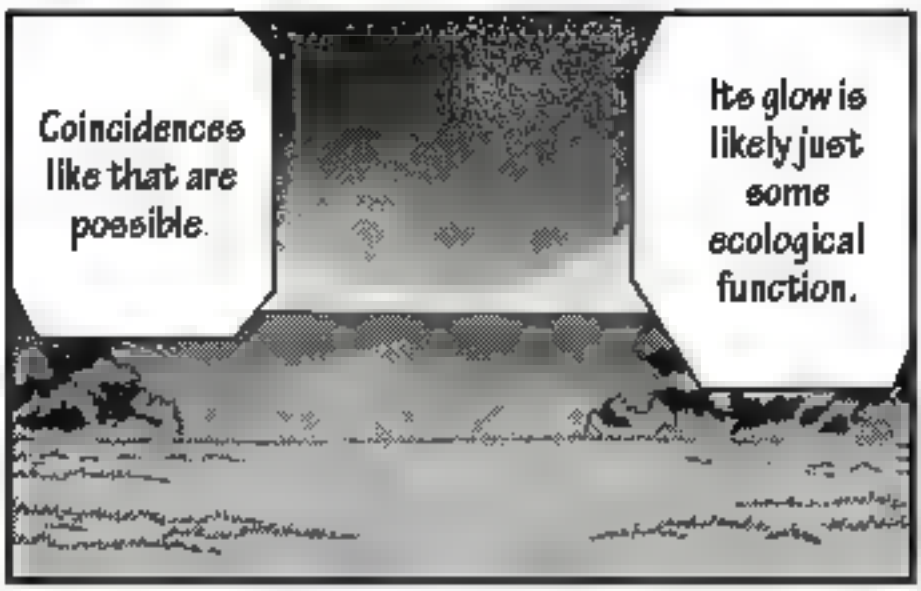

What did you expect?
Expectations?

In my country, this island's coral is very mysterious.
The coral's story.

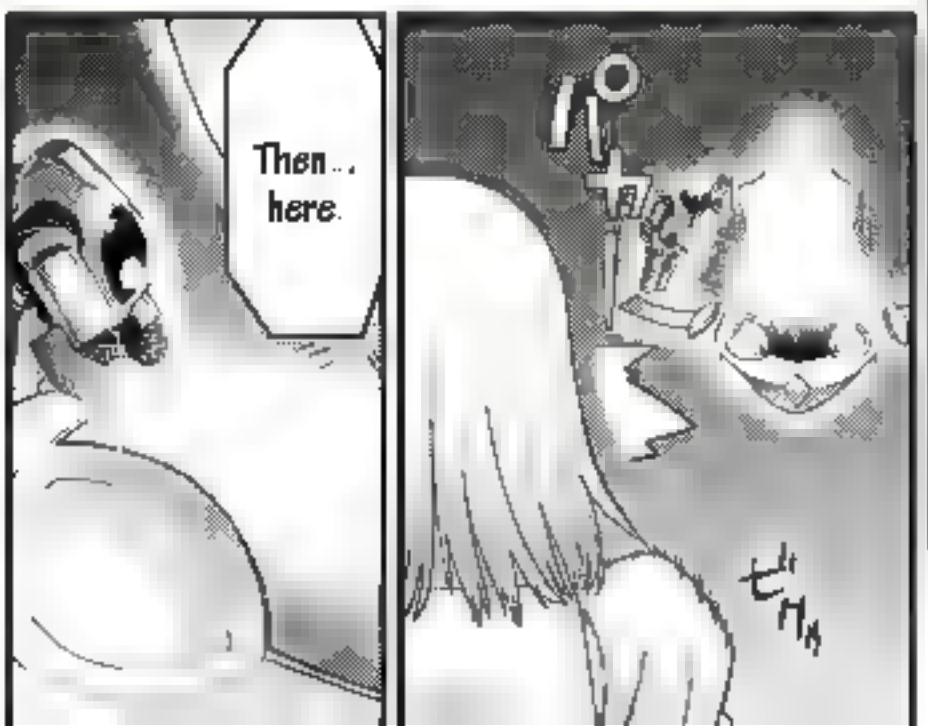
I thought you would know..
Why does this island's coral glow?


People in the city say
This island's specialty is the coral that glows during the full moon
It periodically produces lots of oxygen and nitrogen or something
In the end seems like it's prolonging humanity's history for just a little longer

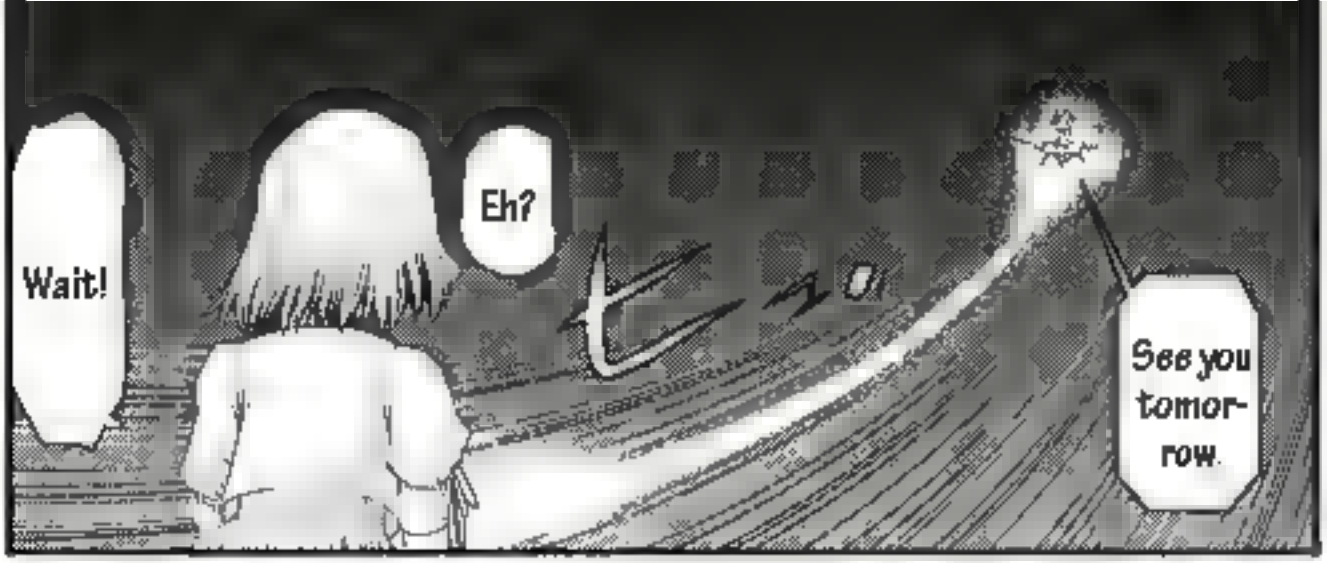

Lots of people have come asking for its price, but...
No one has ever asked why it glows.
Actually, no one
Has even thought about it.

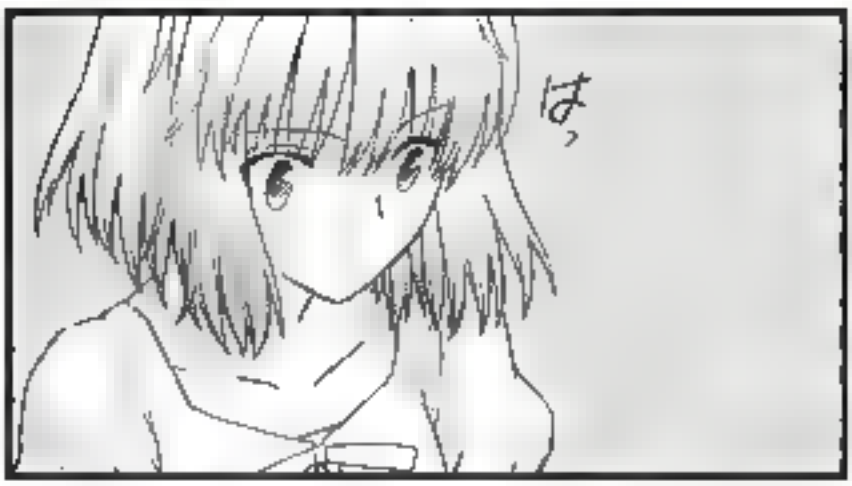

Its glow is likely just some ecological function.
Coincidences like that are possible.

I see...
For you, shining coral is as natural as the coming of a new day.


Then..., here.

I was wondering where to send this.
But after my investigation, you appear to be the recipient.
This is an exchange, but also part of my job.
Please accept this.
If you are satisfied, please keep it as exchange for the book.
We still have one day left.
I do not know what it is.


Wait!
Eh?
See you tomorrow.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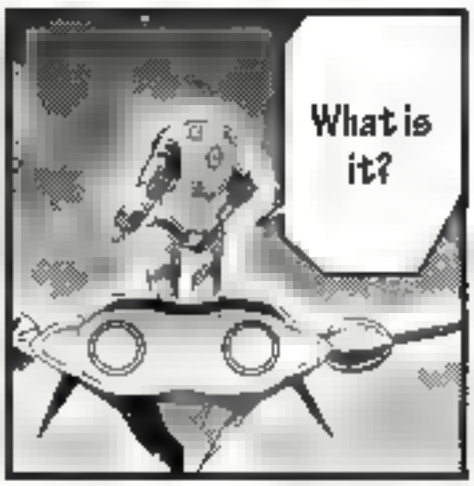
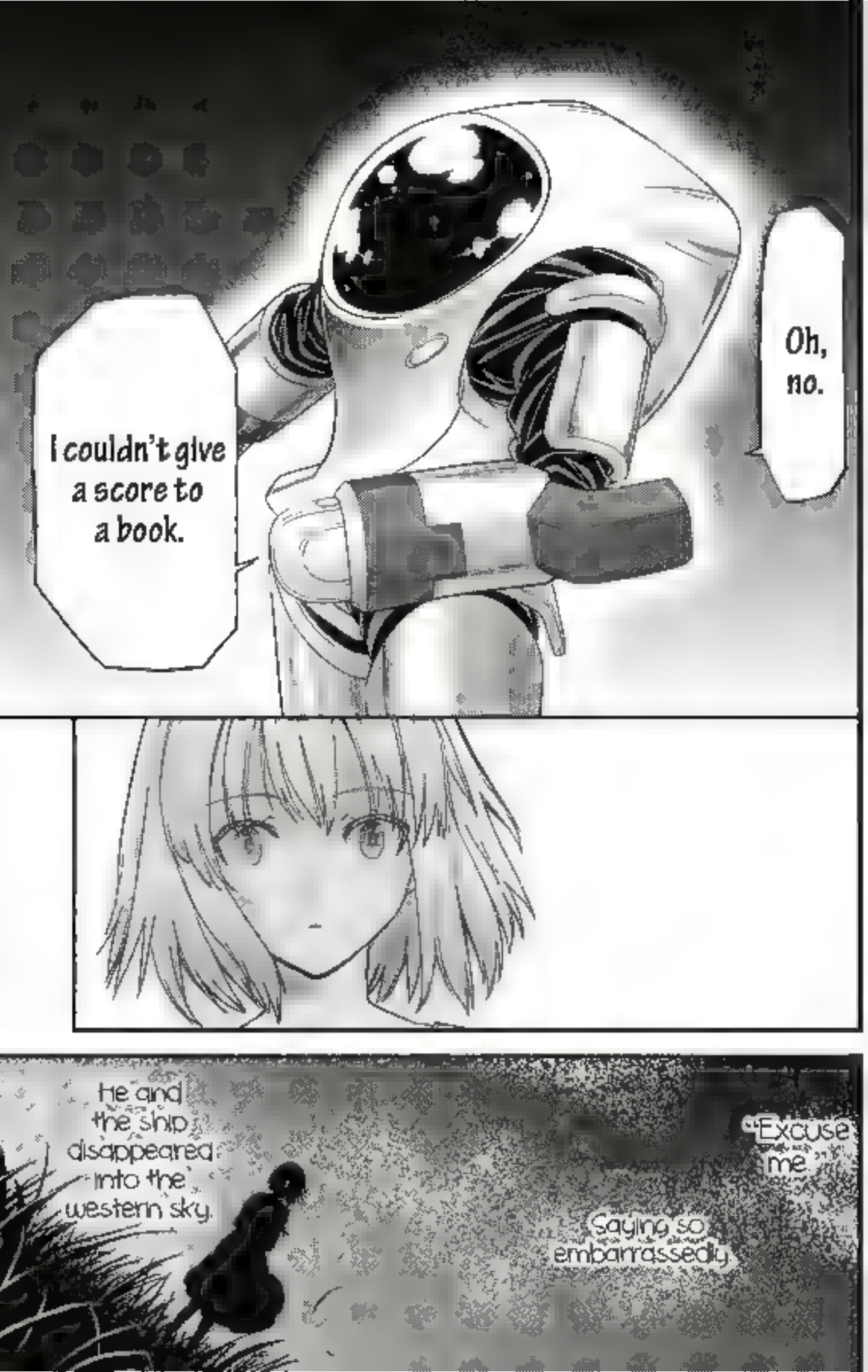

What is it?

...I haven't heard your evaluation.
What score would you give it?


I couldn't give a score to a book.
Oh, no.
He and the ship disappeared into the western sky.
"Excuse me."
Saying so embarrassedly.

It was the first time I'd heard

A human-like voice.

A shell ...?

I'M CARRYING OUT A RECORDING TEST.
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
This is...
A recorder.

レコーダーに秘められたもう一つの〝物語〟とは――!? 次回、新章スタート!!